

PHILADELPHIA & WESTERN RAILWAY, BRIDGEPORT BRIDGE
Pennsylvania Historic Railroad Bridges Recording Project
Spanning Schuylkill River, west of DeKalb St.
Bridgeport
Montgomery County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-535

HAER
PA
46-BRIP,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

HAER
PA
46-BRIP
2-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
PHILADELPHIA & WESTERN RAILWAY, BRIDGEPORT BRIDGE

HAER No. PA-535

Location: Spanning Schuylkill River, west of DeKalb St., Bridgeport, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Quadrangle: Norristown, Pennsylvania (7.5-minute series).

UTM Coordinates: 18/470445/4439885

Date of Construction: 1912.

Basis for Dating: Secondary sources.

Designer: G. H. Shade (Engineer, McClintic-Marshall Construction Co.).

Fabricator / Builder: McClintic-Marshall Construction Co.

Present Owner: Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA).

Present Use: Railroad bridge.

Structure Type: Riveted Warren deck truss, riveted deck and half-through girders.

Significance: The Philadelphia & Western Railway (P&W) bridge between Bridgeport and Norristown is perhaps the longest bridge on an American interurban railroad. This single-track structure, 3,850'-0" long on a curving alignment, combines trestle approaches with deck truss spans over the Schuylkill River. Completed in 1912 for the P&W's Norristown branch, the bridge has seen continuous service since. It now carries SEPTA Route 100 trains between Philadelphia's 69th Street Terminal and Norristown.

Historian: Justin M. Spivey, April 2000.

Project Information: The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) conducted the Pennsylvania Historic Railroad Bridges Recording Project during 1999 and 2000, under the direction of Eric N. DeLony, Chief. The project was supported by the Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) and a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). Justin M. Spivey, HAER

PHILADELPHIA & WESTERN RAILWAY, BRIDGEPORT BRIDGE

HAER No. PA-535

(Page 2)

engineer, researched and wrote the final reports. Preston M. Thayer, historian, Fredericksburg, Virginia, conducted preliminary research under contract. Jet Lowe, HAER photographer, and Joseph E. B. Elliott, contract photographer, Sellersville, Pennsylvania, produced large-format photographs.

Sources

1. Michael Deacon, "Philadelphia & Western Railway Norristown High Speed Line, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Red Arrow Division, Charter Trip, Sunday June 17, 1979," Philadelphia Railfan Information Service typescript, Box 5, Luther P. Cummings Collection, Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, MG 199, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, Pa.
2. Milepost 0.07, region/division/branch 150322, aperture card files, Consolidated Rail Corp., Philadelphia, Pa. [transferred to Norfolk Southern Railway Co., Atlanta, Ga.].
3. Walter R. Olsen, "Philadelphia & Western System," *Model Railroader* (Aug. 1972): 48-52.

Acknowledgment

The author is grateful to Edward T. Addison, Jr., President of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, for responding to a preliminary survey form.